

**Technology and Equipment  
Committee Meeting**

**August 29, 2007**

**Radiation Oncology Services -  
Linear Accelerators**

**Material Related To**

**Linac Petition-3: Rex Hospital**

## COMMENTS AND PETITION FOR CORRECTION TO THE INVENTORY

### Petitioner:

Rex Hospital  
4420 Lake Boone Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607

DFS Health Planning  
RECEIVED

AUG 03 2007

### Represented by:

Rebekah Swain  
Director, Strategic Planning  
(919) 784-4483

Medical Facilities  
Planning Section

### Executive Summary:

Rex Hospital requests that the State Health Coordinating Council adjust the inventory of linear accelerators shown on pages 109 and 111 of the draft 2008 State Medical Facilities Plan to correct the omission of the Franklin Regional Cancer Treatment Center.

### Background:

The petitioner, Rex Hospital, is located in Wake County and provides cancer treatment services in the Rex Cancer Center. The Rex Cancer Center was the first accredited comprehensive community cancer center in North Carolina, as designated by the American College of Surgeons. Rex provides radiation therapy services on four linear accelerators, all currently located on its main campus in western Raleigh.

Franklin Regional Cancer Treatment Center is located in Louisburg, Franklin County, NC. Franklin County, together with Wake and Harnett Counties, comprise linear accelerator Service Area 20 as shown in Table 9I, pages 112-114 of the draft 2008 State Medical Facilities Plan ("draft Plan").

Franklin Regional Cancer Treatment Center (FRCTC) began providing services on May 1, 2006, as shown in Exhibit A, an article from the Franklin Times dated July 7, 2006. The article states that the facility was to hold an open house on the following Tuesday, July 11, 2006.

In August 2006, CON Agency Analyst Michael McKillip wrote to FRCTC, requesting documentation of the purchase of the linear accelerator being used to provide radiation therapy services. In September 2006, Lee Whitman, acting as representative for FRCTC, responded to Mr. McKillip's inquiry by providing documentation that the linear accelerator and simulator were purchased below the \$250,000 limit in July 2005, before the law changed in August 2005. The CON section has issued no response to this matter. FRCTC continues to treat patients each day on its linear accelerator.

### Requested Change:

Rex Hospital respectfully requests that Franklin Regional Cancer Treatment Center be included in the inventory of radiation oncology service providers for Service Area 20. If this change is not made, the inventory will continue to be incorrect and misleading.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Plan and provide our comments.

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## Sections

## You searched for "cancer treatment center"

results 1 through 25 of 916 sorted by relevance  
page 1 of 37 :: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5

- Front Page (text)
- Community News
- Business
- Church News
- Classifieds
- Franklin Facts
- Lifestyles
- Obituaries
- Opinions/Editorials
- Schools/Education
- Sports
- Past Issues

### **Cancer Treatment Center improves quality of care** (relevance: 100%, date: July 7, 2006)

Since May 1, the Franklin Regional Cancer Treatment Center has been providing state-of-the-art care for patients in and around the county. The center, located on Jolly Street in Louisburg, brings together chemotherapy and radiation treatment in one location. "It's a valuable new resource for local citizens," said Paige McLaurin, the company's property and office manager. "Not only does it make it more convenient for the patients, but it also improves the quality of care by enhancing coordinating the efforts."

### **2007 Relay for Life plans get going this Friday night** (relevance: 57.4%, date: Nov 14, 2006)

As the co-chair of the Franklin County Relay For Life, I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the citizens of Franklin County for supporting the fight against cancer.

### **Relay for Life: fighting against cancer all year long** (relevance: 54.6%, date: Apr 27, 2007)

As I reflect back on Friday night's Relay For Life (April 20) and the people whose existence has been impacted through despair, loss, hope and victory, it brought back a sad, yet sweet remembrance of my Uncle Jim, while suffering from the latter stages of lung cancer still making his way to a nearby Lizard's Thicket restaurant and allowing me the chance to spend a couple of nights at his home on the outskirts of Columbia S.C., before I headed off to Florida;

### **RELAY FOR LIFE** (relevance: 52.3%, date: Jan 12, 2007)

Variety show  
Famous? New Hope hot dogs, along with homemade french fries, will be sold at New Hope Christian Church on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a variety show at 6:30 p.m.  
Proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Yard Sale  
Rock Spring Baptist Church Relay For Life team will have a yard sale Saturday, Jan. 27 (9 a.m. - until), between Jeffrey's and Annie Lee's on Highway 39 South. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. Steak Dinner  
Rock Spring Baptist Church Relay For Life team will be hosting a steak dinner Saturday,



2007  
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## Cancer Treatment Center improves quality of care

By CAREY JOHNSON, Times Staff Writer



GETTING READY: Assistants Wilma Hooker, left, and Jamie Jenkins, help a patient get ready for a radiation treatment  
(Times photo by Carey Johnson)

Since May 1, the Franklin Regional Cancer Treatment Center has been providing state-of-the-art care for patients in and around the county.

The center, located on Jolly Street in Louisburg, brings together chemotherapy and radiation treatment in one location.

"It's a valuable new resource for local citizens," said Paige McLaurin, the company's property and office manager. "Not only does it make it more convenient for the patients, but it also improves the quality of care by enhancing coordinating the efforts."

Her husband, Dr. Bob McLaurin Jr., agreed.

Two years ago, a Rocky Mount group of oncologists opened a satellite clinic in Franklin County but could only provide chemotherapy.

Cancer sufferers had to go elsewhere for radiation treatment.

"When they brought chemotherapy treatment here, that was a big step ... but a big element is radiation oncology," Dr. McLaurin said. "The two can work together.

"Until recently, (patients) had to go to Henderson, Raleigh or Rocky Mount to receive the radiation treatment."

That's because the key mechanism for radiation treatment - a linear accelerator - isn't exactly cheap.

The device, which costs millions of dollars, delivers a uniform dose of high-energy X-ray to the region of the patient's tumor.

The X-rays can destroy the cancer cells while sparing the surrounding normal tissue.

In the office, oncologists and other staff coordinate a course of care, using patient history, expertise, computer equipment and other devices to treat cancer.

Dr. McLaurin works in the office with Drs. Francisco Castillos and Daniel Crocker.

McLaurin, who's lived in Wake County for 18 years, though, has been involved in designing and developing new cancer centers for over 20 years, including centers in Missouri and Pennsylvania.

His last four centers have been in North Carolina.

He said Franklin County was a destination spot for him.

"It has always been my goal to be able to develop a center in a small community where we can provide customized care for patients," he said. "This is the sixth center and hopefully will be the last.

"I've been working to try to get to this point to get into a small community and really participate with its members to try to develop center that would be valuable to all.

"It's already been quite clear from hospital administrators to the citizens of the community to the Chamber of Commerce that everyone is very supportive of our being here and providing this service to the patients."

The Franklin County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony, set for noon on Tuesday at the center at 113 Jolly St.